

Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council

Meeting Notice

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

March 9, 2010

10:00 AM

RI Economic Development Corporation

315 Iron Horse Way, Suite 101

Narragansett Room

Providence, Rhode Island 02908

AGENDA

Attendance

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth H. Roberts Brigadier General Brian W. Goodwin

LTC Paul Peltier Robert Pesapane

Dawn Lewis Peter Gaynor

Kate McCarthy – Barnett Lt. James Manni

Randall Ricketts Paul Stasiuk

Brian Pires Patrick Johnson

William Mullen Ryan Whitehead

Steve Preston Richard James

Larry Grimaldi Jim Ball

Gregory Scungio Joseph McCooey

Robert Church Claudia Staniszewski

Normand Menard Stephen Kavanagh

Robert Seltzer Arthur Bovis

Erin Lambie Lori Needham

William Bessette Vincent Marzullo

Geof Milner Joseph Mensah

Vladimir Ibarra

I. Call to Order/ Attendance—Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 am. Lieutenant Governor Roberts informed members that General Bray was providing testimony at the House Finance Committee Hearing and that Director Smith and Deputy Johnson were out of State. The Chairwoman thanked Joseph Baker from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for offering conference space at a central location off Jefferson Blvd. The meetings going forward will be held at the RI DOT Division of Highway and Bridge Maintenance (360 Lincoln Avenue, Warwick RI 02888). Furthermore, the Chairwoman thanked the RIEMA for posting their Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) online. The report will be used as a baseline of accountability in their grant process and will be of great help towards transparency.

RIEMA Update:

BG Goodwin on behalf of MG Gray. RI National Guard Brigadier General Brian Goodwin highlighted two points:

1. There were several storms that put the EOC into action. He wanted to thank the different partners for outstanding corporation throughout

the winter. Also, wanted to remind members that Hurricane season starts in June and resources are already in place.

2. RING LTC Peltier discussed the Exercise for the 13th civil support teams which will involve a lot of communities. It should be an excellent venue to work as a team. This will be the first time for the state of Rhode Island.

II. Approval of the minutes from February 9, 2010

Minutes approved.

III. Domestic Preparedness Subcommittee reports

A. Interoperability Communications Committee— Director David Smith, RIEMA Chair

Robert Pesapane on behalf of Director Smith and Deputy Johnson.

Mr. Pesapane stated that training for the system is almost completed and should be ready by the end of the month. The NCAA tournament will provide a great opportunity to evaluate the 800 MHz system in conjunction with Peter Gaynor's PEMA.

B. Hospital Preparedness Working Group— Alysia Mihalakos, DOH/Dawn Lewis, HARI

Kate McCarthy Barnett stated that thanks to all the cities and towns; thirty-three open clinics were opened to provide vaccinations to thousands of Rhode Islanders. Rough estimates indicate the number around four-hundred thousand. HEALTH continues monitoring H1N1 but now they are moving into revaluation and recovery phase. The

assessment phase continues and a current challenge is the institution of a statewide Patient Tracking system for EMS and hospitals. Also, they are monitoring the potential third wave of H1N1 as this was the time last year when it began. Lt. Governor was impressed with the effort and the infrastructure as she visited several throughout the State. Lastly, Dawn Lewis wanted to encourage the membership to increase the use the State Emergency Preparedness Events Calendar as this will increase situational awareness and decrease duplicate demand for resources. For further information please contact Dawn at dawnl@hari.org.

C. Mat/Decon Technical Working Group— Steve Preston, Woonsocket FD

The committee continues to work towards completing a state certification for hazardous materials and decontamination consistent with federal standards as Rhode Island is currently without certification. They are currently finishing the FY10 Homeland Security Investments with RIEMA. Continued participation with the seven New England states to develop a Northeast Mutual Aid Compact specific to hazardous materials/WMD events. Last Thursday a hearing was held for hazardous waste cleanup, Director Sullivan was instrumental in getting the correct language submitted. Senator Algiere is putting the companion language hopefully it will be passed this session.

D. Behavioral Health Disaster Response Network Working

Group—Susan Earley, MHRH No Report

E. Volunteer/Citizens' Corps Council—Vin Marzullo

Grant Funding: Eighteen thousand dollars were awarded to six communities. Those monies will be used for training, volunteer recruitment, marketing, equipment, and exercises. Going forward grants will be awarded on a rolling basis so that funds can be made available as needs arise.

Serve RI was very much interested in the support of EMA around local service projects. There is a call to communities to assist their projects with trained volunteers. Serve RI is identifying a number of events where they can issue a call for volunteers to participate and it would be useful to be exposed to the 211 operations here in Rhode Island. For example, on April 17th there will be a cleanup at Roger Williams Park and volunteers will be invited. Lastly, a Serve RI assessment of thirty-five EMA's in November and December gathered data in which 50 percent have CERT teams and 87 percent want CERT teams.

The Lieutenant Governor asked what the current need for more volunteers was. Mr. Marzullo, stated that we need to have this report completed and continue to have dialogue with the Red Cross and a roadmap of how volunteers can be used. There is a need for search teams; management, support and communications. Also, there really needs to be a scripting to how this will come together. Six months from now, we'll be in a better position. We are in conversation with a lot of the colleges and universities. We want to

develop capabilities at those higher education facilities.

F. Law Enforcement Working Group— Lt. James Manni, RISP

RI WMD, working with Trooper Mike, continued training again at the Port of Prov as this is the most likely area for an attack to occur. Upcoming exercises include the Twin River terrorist attack or a disgruntled employee and Vigilant Hope.

G. Port Security—Erin Lambie, USCG

Vigilant Hope, planning and getting participants. Currently in the process of reviewing Port Security Grants and measuring community preparedness for an oil spill. There seems to be a question in regards to search and rescue and once the system is operational how it would work. The biggest event on the agenda continues to be Vigilant Hope on May 5 and RI EMA is engaged in both.

H. Special Populations Working Group—Kate McCarthy-Barnett, DOH
Completed first draft of sheltering plan and met with Red Cross to see how we incorporate this information based on federal guidelines. Larry Macedo will be presenting at the National Hurricane Conference. The Special Needs Registry has been linked with E911 and starting to work with the Fire Chiefs. The growth of the registry will be highlighted in Atlanta. In regards to transportation and evacuation the work group continues to meet on a bimonthly basis.

I. Urban Search and Rescue—Bill McKenna, Cranston FD

The subcommittee continues its leadership reorganization and will provide an organizational chart. The numbers are down, continue to set up trainings and work closely with RI EMA on those efforts.

J. Transportation Security Working Group—Brian Pires, ATAC/TSWG Plans with the Providence EMA (PEMA) will look at points of economic strength, Amtrak, Airport, and mall to look at the macro view.

Upcoming exercises include a Cogwag and Vigilant Hope. Towards that effort there are three upcoming meetings. Continue collaboration with Pakistan on how to tackle with terrorism, working in conjunction with the Fusion center.

K. Mass Casualty—Chief Robert Church, Portsmouth FD

First Tuesday of the month. Looking at MOU's of items due to expire. The State of RI in order to receive federal grants needs to follow the Maryland model. Continued dialogue in regards to the MCI trailers.

IV. 2010 Legislative Discussion

Mr. Steve Preston provided a legislative update in regards to bill H7537 which would abolish local EMA's. The legislation, if enacted, would end the requirement that mandates that each city and town have their own emergency management agency. Representatives Peter F. Martin and Brian C. Newberry support this legislation on the basis that the requirement for local EMA's has been described by some as an unfunded mandate. However, discussion was held

among council members that this cannot accurately be characterized as an unfunded mandate since the majority of the funding used by local cities and towns to fulfill this requirement comes from federal sources through FEMA Grants. Moreover, the H1N1 and hazard mitigation clinics were successful in part because of this “mandate”. After brief discussion the council’s consensus was to adopt the draft letter (provided to members) opposing this legislation and to send it to the committee Chairman officially expressing the council’s opposition. Lieutenant Governor asked if there was any other legislation that council members wished to discuss and the response was no. Chairwoman Roberts encouraged members to bring up legislation or contact our office if any concerns over other legislation develop.

V. New Business/ Member Comments and/or Suggestion

The RI Economic Development Corporation has been deemed accessible to those with disabilities. Individuals requesting interpreter services for the deaf or hearing impaired or needing other accommodations, please call 401-222-2371 and ask for Vladimir Ibarra or email Mr. Ibarra at vibarra@ltgov.state.ri.us at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.